

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-16 are pending in this application.

The Examiner has rejected:

claims 1, 6, and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Shojima et al. (USP 5,592,565, hereinafter Shojima); and
claims 3-5 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Shojima and Cok (USP 6,298,154).

The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 6, and 8 specifically recite a selection unit that *selects* a display font *based on a comparison* of handwritten characters with characters in each of a plurality of fonts. Applicants' independent claim 9 claims a method that includes *selecting* a display font *based on a comparison* of handwritten characters with characters in each of a plurality of fonts.

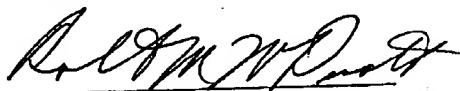
Shojima allows a user to select a display font from a number of fonts, but Shojima does *not* teach a selection unit that *selects* such a font by *comparing* handwritten characters to characters in a variety of fonts. The Office action cites Shojima column 3, lines 22-48 for teaching this selection and comparison. The cited text, however, teaches the conventional comparison of handwritten characters to a dictionary of characters and the subsequent display of the recognized character. Shojima teaches the creation of a personal font, at column 5, lines 29-52. After the font is created, it can be "registered", and thereafter linked to a recognition pattern. A flag is set in the pattern buffer when the mode of operation is selected, to indicate whether the standard font or the personal font should be used. (Shojima, column 6, lines 40-56, and FIG. 8.) Note that step 6-505 "SET FONT" of FIG. 8 is a sub-process of step 6-500 "REGISTER" of FIG. 3, and that step 6-500 is invoked only when the system is NOT in the "RECOGNITION" mode ("No" branch from the "RECOGNITION" decision block).

Cok teaches melding handwritten input with a "normative" font to improve the appearance of the handwritten input. The user or operator may select the font to be used as the normative font, but Cok does *not* teach a selection unit that *selects* the font based on a *comparison* of handwritten input to characters in a variety of fonts.

Because neither Shojima nor Cok, individually or collectively, teach or suggest selecting a font based on a comparison of handwritten input to characters in a variety of fonts, as specifically claimed in each of the Applicants' independent claims, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 6, and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Shojima, and claims 3-5 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Shojima and Cok.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the present application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. McDermott, Esq.
Reg. No. 41,508
804-493-0707

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
SEP 26 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

It is hereby certified that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:
 deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
 transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9314.

On 26 September 2003

By Robert M. McDermott

OFFICIAL